

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 IO-13
ISO-00 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 EPA-04
CEQ-01 INT-05 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 JUSE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /153 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TCA/MA:CTAYLOR,JR./USCG:DCHINTZE:BST

APPROVED BY EB/TCA/MA:RICHARD BANK

IO/TRC:WDIAMANTI

OES/ENP/EN:GKINTER

OES/OFA/OCA:GDALTON

L/EB:JRCROOK

L/OES:TLEITZELL

D/LOS:RBLUMBERG

EUR/RPE:ADSENS

AF/I:LSHURTLEFF

EA/RA:LMCNUTT

NEA/RA:DMORAN

ARA/ECP:DTAHER

DOT:SWALLACE (SUBS)

-----142000Z 004022 /73

R 131856Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMCONSUL HAMBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SENV

SUBJECT:ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

REF: A) STATE 60283; B) STATE 66771; C) LONDON 6582;
D) STATE 104400

1. ON APPROXIMATELY MAY 16, COAST GUARD PLANS TO ISSUE
FOUR NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (NPRM) DEALING WITH
OIL TANKER CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS. PARTICULAR-
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LY SINCE PUBLICATION OF THESE NPRMS WILL COME ON EVE OF
MEETING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE
ORGANIZATION (IMCO) COUNCIL, DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED THAT
CONFUSION AND APPREHENSION OVER THE NATURE OF NPRMS ON
PART OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS COULD HAMPER U.S. EFFORTS
TO PROMOTE CONSIDERATION OF TANKER POLLUTION CONTROL WITHIN
IMCO. ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE THEREFORE INSTRUCTED TO DISCUSS
NPRMS WITH APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRIOR TO
MAY 23-27 IMCO COUNCIL MEETING, DRAWING ON FOLLOWING BACK-
GROUND MATERIAL AND TALKING POINTS.

2. THE NPRMS ARE BEING ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
PRESIDENT'S MARCH 17 MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON TANKER POLLU-
TION (REF A), IN WHICH HE INSTRUCTED THE SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP PROPOSED RULES WITHIN 60 DAYS.
THE PROPOSED RULES WILL, AMONG OTHER THINGS, DEAL WITH
MEASURES ENUMERATED IN THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- BACKUP
RADARS WITH COLLISION AVOIDANCE SYSTEMS, EMERGENCY
STEERING STANDARDS, RETROFIT OF SEGREGATED BALLAST,

INERT GAS SYSTEMS, DOUBLE BOTTOMS ON NEW TANKERS. POSTS WILL RECALL THAT THESE SPECIFIC MEASURES WERE PART OF A WIDE-RANGING APPROACH DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THREE OBJECTIVES: 1) REDUCTION OF OIL POLLUTION CAUSED BY TANKER ACCIDENTS; 2) IMPROVEMENT OF OUR ABILITY TO DEAL SWIFTLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH OIL SPILLS WHEN THEY OCCUR; AND 3) PROVISION OF FULL AND DEPENDABLE COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF OIL POLLUTION DAMAGE.

3. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT MARINE OIL POLLUTION PROBLEM REQUIRES INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS AND, AMONG OTHER INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS CALLED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER IMPROVED TANKER STANDARDS. ACCORDINGLY, U.S. DELEGATION PRESENTED PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS TO APRIL 16-22 MEETING OF IMCO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC). AS NOTED REF C, MSC RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
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TO MEET SEVERAL TIMES PRIOR TO OCTOBER, 1977, A JOINT MEETING OF MSC AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE (MEPC) IN OCTOBER, A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY, 1978, AND RESCHEDULING OF THE CONFERENCE ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING FOR JUNE, 1978, (THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY IMCO COUNCIL AT ITS MAY 23-27 MEETING.) THE U.S. WAS GRATIFIED BY THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL RESPONSE OF THE DELEGATIONS TO THE MSC AND CONTINUES TO BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THESE PROBLEMS REQUIRE URGENT CONSIDERATION IN IMCO SO THAT INTERNATIONALLY-AGREED SOLUTIONS CAN BE ACHIEVED IN A TIMELY MANNER.

4. IN VIEW OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY IN IMCO, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT FOREIGN OFFICIALS UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE AND NATURE OF NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULEMAKINGS. WHEN CONTACTING HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) THE NOTICES MERELY SERVE TO RELEASE PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND DO NOT IRREVOCABLY COMMIT THE USG TO SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION.

B) A MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE NPRMS IS TO SOLICIT INFORMED COMMENT FROM THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY AND OTHER QUALIFIED GROUPS. THE AIM IS TO BUILD UP A BODY OF SOUND TECHNOLOGICAL OPINION ON THE PROPOSED MEASURES AND TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR EQUIVALENTS WHICH CAN PROVIDE EQUAL OR BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS ON NPRMS IS THUS COMPLEMENTARY TO, RATHER THAN IN CONFLICT WITH, THE ONGOING IMCO DISCUSSIONS OF TANKER POLLUTION

AND SAFETY.

C) COMMENTS ON THE NPRMS NEED NOT BE FROM U.S. SOURCES ONLY. THE USG WELCOMES COMMENTS FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPOSED MEASURES -- OR EQUIVALENTS -- AND WILL GIVE SUCH COMMENTS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

D) WHILE THE NPRMS WILL CONTAIN DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS, THESE DEADLINES DO NOT IMPLY SPECIFIC SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION DATES. AFTER ALL COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED, AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD IS REQUIRED FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMENTS; THE LENGTH OF THIS PERIOD DEPENDS ON THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED AND THE VOLUME OF COMMENTS RECEIVED. IN THIS CASE, WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE REVIEW PERIOD WILL BE MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO TAKE INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS INTO ACCOUNT.

E) THE NPRMS ARE ONLY AN INITIAL STEP IN THE REGULATORY PROCESS AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO NEGATE OR DETRACT IN ANY WAY FROM OUR EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT TIMELY INTERNATIONAL REMEDIES FOR TANKER POLLUTION. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE COOPERATIVE RESPONSE WE ENCOUNTERED AT THE APRIL 18-22 MEETING OF THE IMCO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING CLOSE COOPERATION IN IMCO WITH OTHER MARITIME NATIONS.

5. FOR USUN: SINCE PRC HAS IN PAST INDICATED IT WOULD PREFER TO DISCUSS UN-RELATED MATTERS IN NEW YORK, MISSION REQUESTED TO TAKE UP ABOVE WITH PRC MISSION.

6. FOR GENOA: PLEASE REVIEW ABOVE WITH MSC CHAIRMAN DR. LORENZO SPINELLI, DIRECTOR GENERAL REGISTARO ITALIANO.

7. FOR STOCKHOLM: IN ADDITION TO GOS, PLEASE REVIEW ABOVE WITH MEPC CHAIRMAN, PER ERIKSSON, MARITIME SAFETY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION.

8. PLEASE REPORT ANY LOCAL REACTIONS TO NPRM ISSUANCE. CHRISTOPHER
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, WATER POLLUTION, PETROLEUM, STANDARDS, RESOLUTIONS, CARGO SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770171-0993
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 5
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2530425
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION
TAGS: EWWT, SENV, US, CA
To: OTTAWA ATHENS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/18aaa494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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